TWILIGHT ZONE
GOLD KEY
90016-902
ROD SERLING
THE TWILIGHT ZONE
35¢
They loved his music to death!
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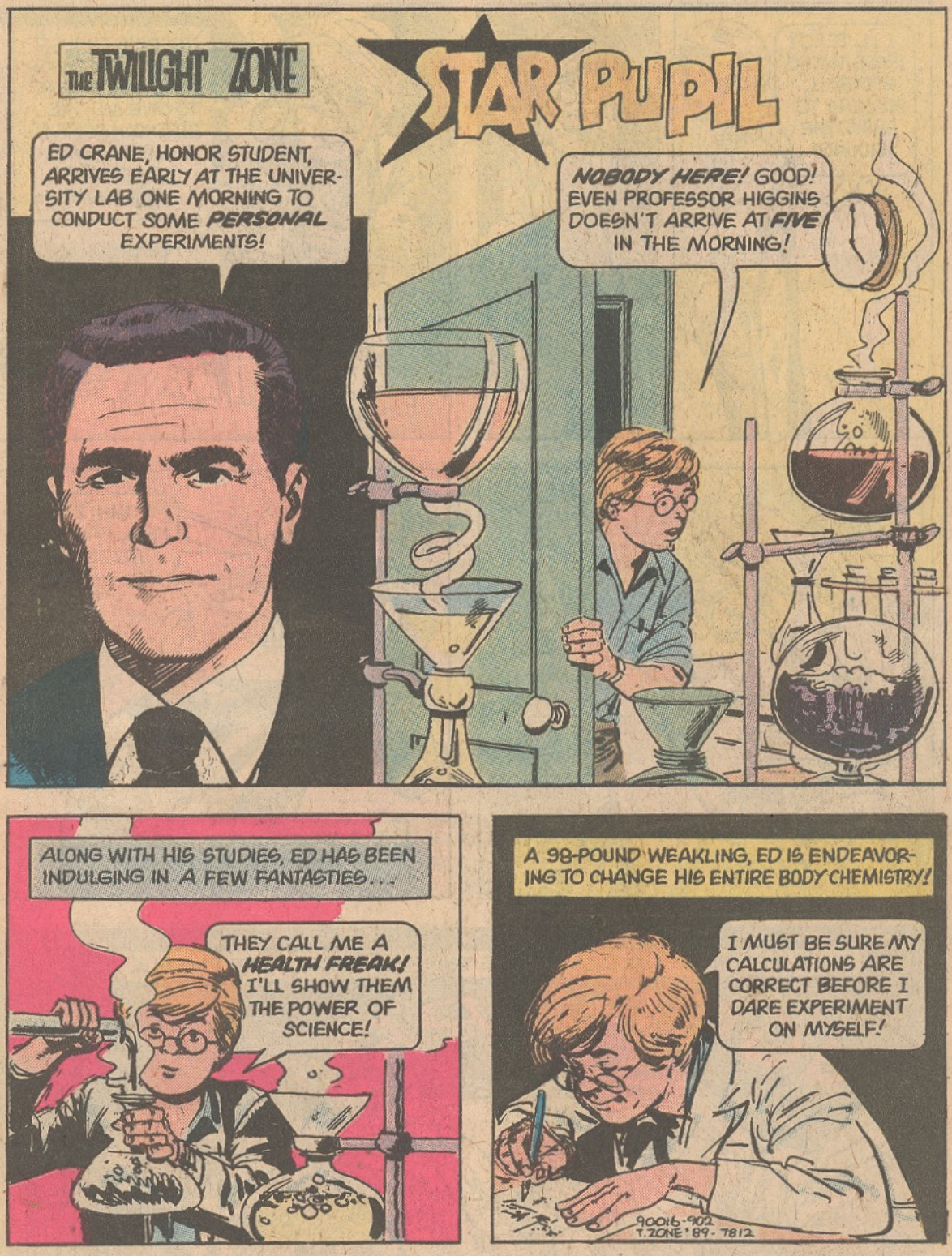

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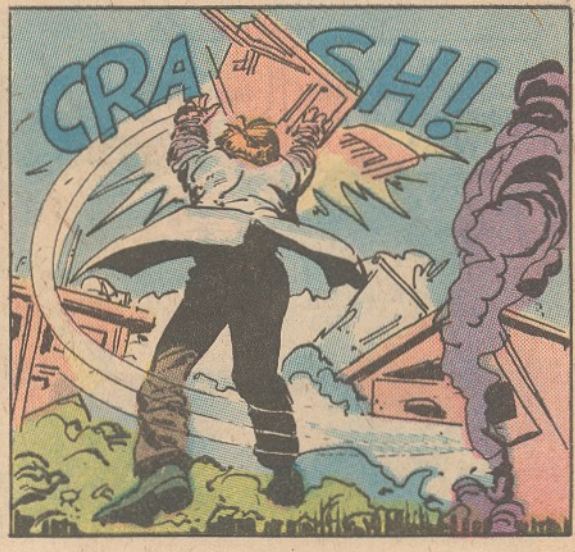
I'LL TEACH THOSE MACHO FOOTBALL PLAYERS TO SHOVE ME AROUND!
THERE'S ENOUGH BODY BUILDING PROTEIN IN HERE TO GIVE ME THE STRENGTH OF ATLAS! COMBINED WITH THESE OTHER INGREDIENTS--
HERE GOES!
OHH, I FEEL FAINT... DIZZY!
AS THE CHEMICALS TAKE EFFECT, ED LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS...
AS HE LIES ON THE FLOOR, A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE...
AGGRRRR

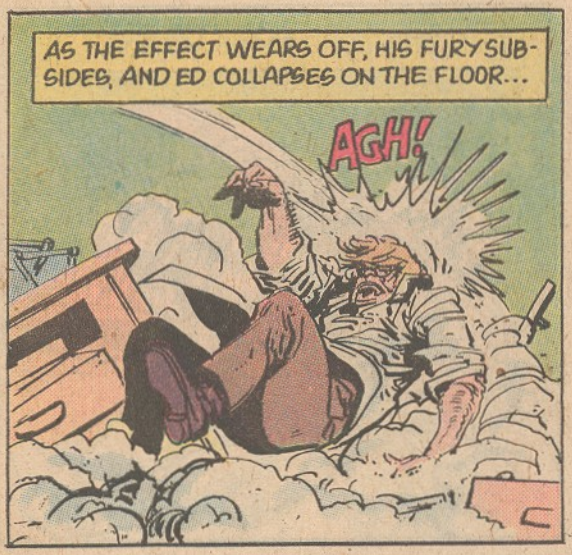
IN A FEW MOMENTS...
ARG! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO ME?

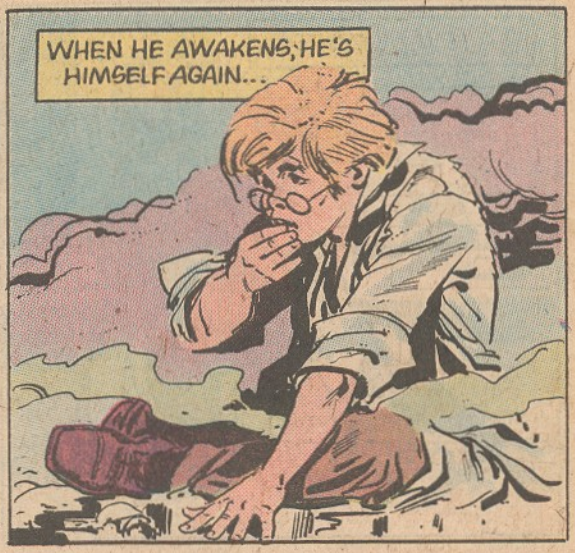
THEN, STUMBLING TO THE MIRROR...

RRONE!
UNABLE TO CONTROL THE MONSTER'S RAGE THAT IS WITHIN HIM, ED GOES ON A RAMPAGE...

RRROWL!
WHAM!

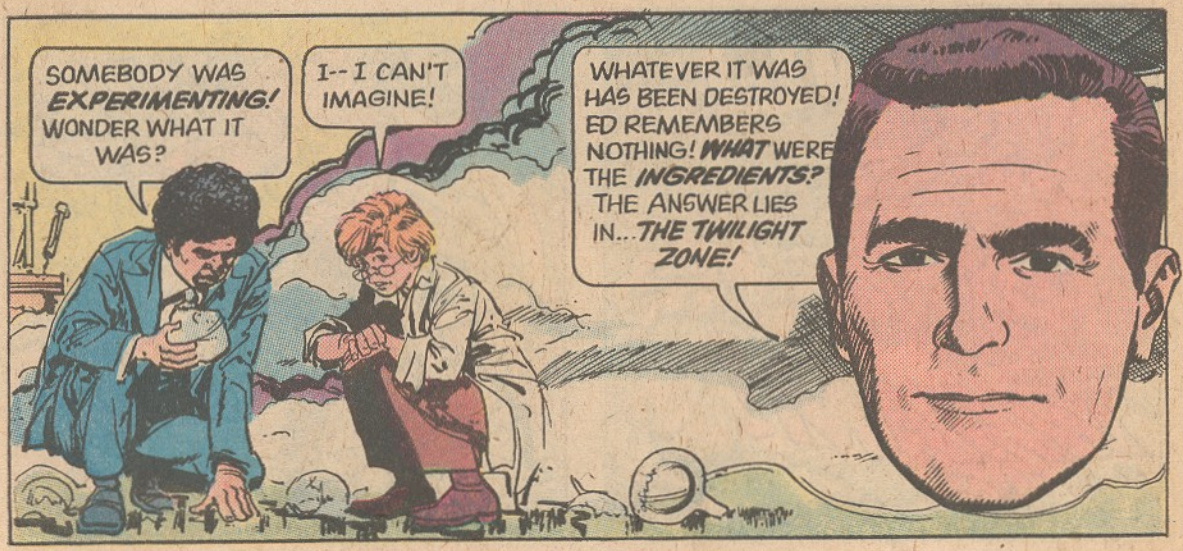

CRASH!


AS THE EFFECT WEARS OFF, HIS FURY SUB-SIDES, AND ED COLLAPSES ON THE FLOOR...
AGH!


WHEN HE AWAKENS, HE'S HIMSELF AGAIN...

JUST THEN...
ED! WHAT--
PROFESSOR HIGGINS! I--I DON'T KNOW!

SOME VANDALS MUST HAVE BROKEN IN HERE OVER THE WEEKEND!
SURE LOOKS THAT WAY!


SOMEBODY WAS EXPERIMENTING! WONDER WHAT IT WAS?
I--I CAN'T IMAGINE!
WHATEVER IT WAS HAS BEEN DESTROYED! ED REMEMBERS NOTHING! WHAT WERE THE INGREDIENTS? THE ANSWER LIES IN... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!

THE TWILIGHT ZONE
The PRETTIEST CHILD
INTRODUCING GEORGE AND KATHERINE SHUSTER, A WEALTHY THOUGH CHILDLESS COUPLE WHOSE DREAMS OF STARTING A FAMILY HAVE BROUGHT THEM TO GROVE COUNTY ORPHANAGE!
I'VE GOT TO AGREE WITH YOU, DEAR. THERE'S NO OTHER CHILD IN THIS PLACE EVEN HALF AS CUTE!
GEORGE, I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THAT LITTLE GIRL BY THE WINDOW! SHE'S THE PRETTIEST CHILD I'VE EVER SEEN!
HER NAME IS LINDA, MR. SHUSTER! WE HAVE NO IDEA OF WHO...
... HER PARENTS WERE, OR WHERE SHE CAME FROM! YOU SEE, SHE WAS AN ABANDONED CHILD!
OH, GEORGE! LET'S TAKE HER HOME WITH US!
HOW CAN I SAY "NO"?

THE NEXT WEEK, AT THE SHUSTERS' LAVISH PENTHOUSE APARTMENT...
GEORGE, YOUR LITTLE GIRL IS BEAUTIFUL!
WHERE DID SHE GET THAT DARLING NECKLACE SHE'S WEARING?
WE WERE TOLD SHE WAS WEARING IT WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT THE ORPHANAGE!

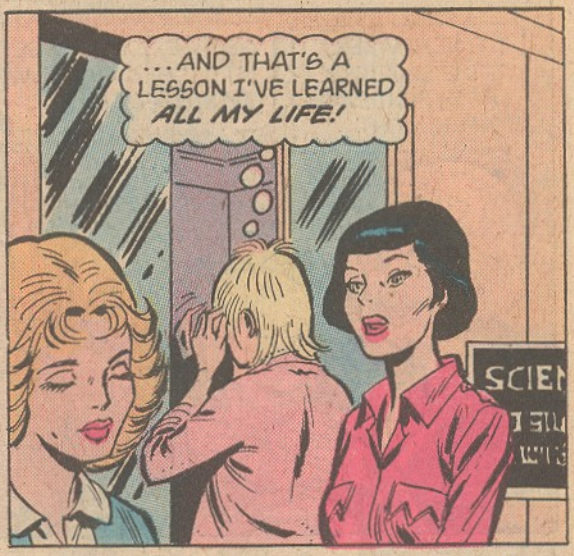
HOWEVER, THROUGH THE YEARS, LINDA DEVELOPS INTO A VERY ORDINARY LOOKING YOUNGSTER...
YOU SHOULDN'T TREAT LINDA THAT WAY! SHE JUST ASKED YOU FOR ADVICE AND YOU IGNORED HER!
SHE DESERVES IT, GEORGE!

WHEN WE ADOPTED HER, I EXPECTED A GIRL WHO WAS GOING TO BECOME A SOPHISCATED YOUNG WOMAN -- NOT A--A PLAIN JANE!
THAT'S NOT HER FAULT, KATHERINE! YOU CAN'T BLAME HER FOR THAT!

YOU'RE THE SELFISH ONE! YOU'RE ONLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR IMAGE, AND YOUR OWN DAUGHTER IS SUFFERING FOR IT!

AND, STRANGELY ENOUGH, LINDA GROWS EVEN MORE UNATTRACTIVE AS A YOUNG WOMAN...
WE'D REALLY LIKE TO TAKE YOU ALONG, LINDA, BUT--ER, THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROOM IN THE CAR!
SURE... I UNDERSTAND!

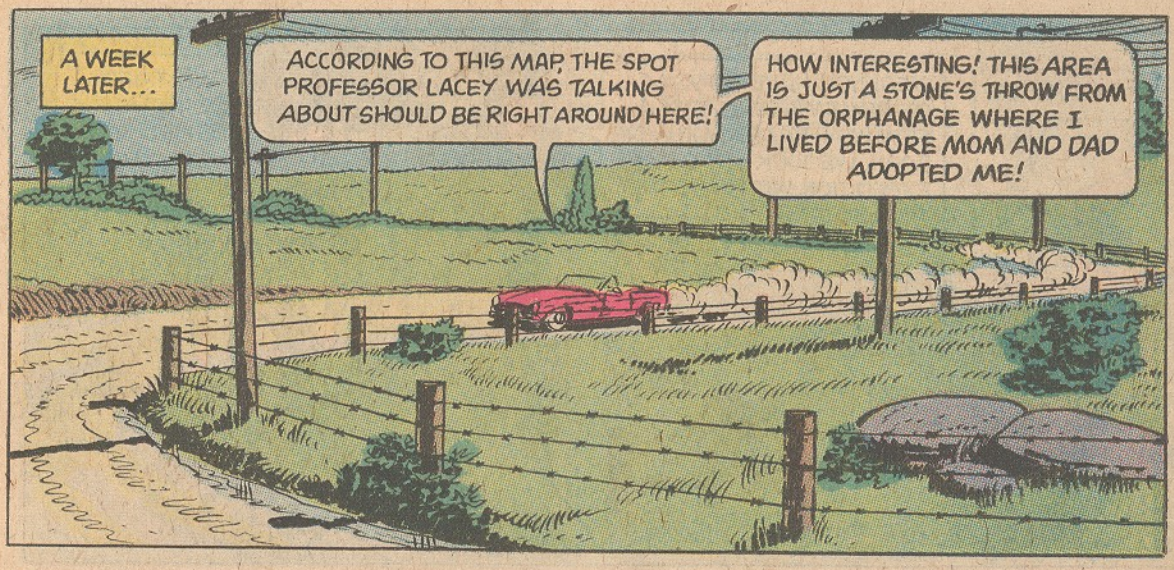
I REALLY SHOULDN'T BLAME THEM FOR TREATING ME THE WAY THEY DO! I'M A SOCIAL ZERO...

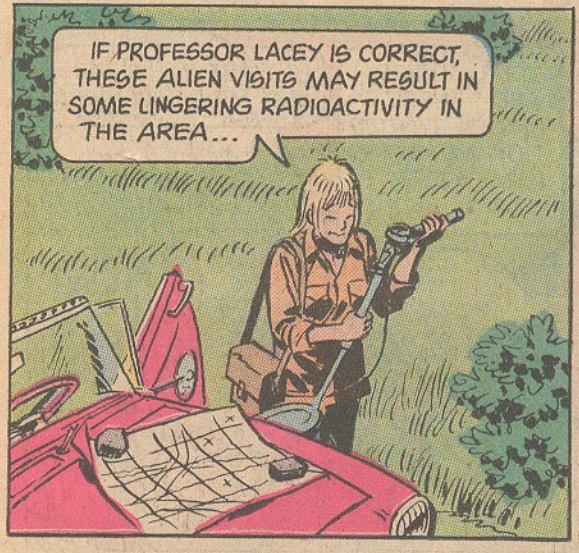

...AND THAT'S A LESSON I'VE LEARNED ALL MY LIFE!

HOWEVER, WHAT LINDA MISSES IN HER SOCIAL LIFE, SHE MORE THAN MAKES UP FOR IN SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, PROFESSOR?
YES, LINDA! AS MY TOP STUDENT, I'D LIKE YOU TO WORK ON A SPECIAL PROJECT INVOLVING MY STUDIES ON INTER-GALACTIC TRAVEL!

YOU SEE, I BELIEVE THAT ALIENS FROM ANOTHER PLANET MAY HAVE BEEN VISITING EARTH...IN OUR OWN GROVE COUNTY!
AND YOU'D LIKE ME TO RESEARCH THIS FURTHER, COLLECTING NEW DATA TO SUPPORT YOUR THEORY!

EXACTLY! I KNOW THIS WOULD MAKE AN EXCELLENT TERM PROJECT FOR A STUDENT AS RELIABLE AND EFFICIENT AS YOU, LINDA!
WILL DO, PROFESSOR!

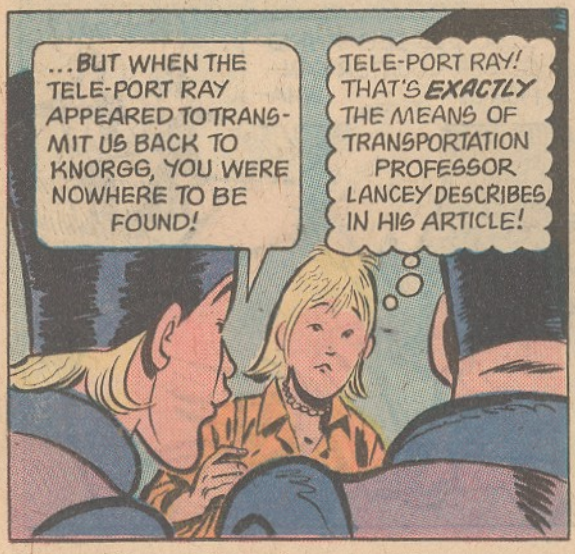

A WEEK LATER...
ACCORDING TO THIS MAP, THE SPOT PROFESSOR LACEY WAS TALKING ABOUT SHOULD BE RIGHT AROUND HERE!
HOW INTERESTING! THIS AREA IS JUST A STONE'S THROW FROM THE ORPHANAGE WHERE I LIVED BEFORE MOM AND DAD ADOPTED ME!

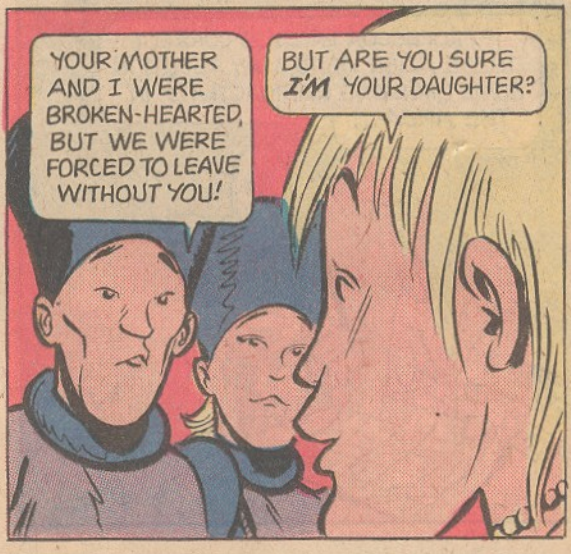

IF PROFESSOR LACEY IS CORRECT, THESE ALIEN VISITS MAY RESULT IN SOME LINGERING RADIOACTIVITY IN THE AREA...

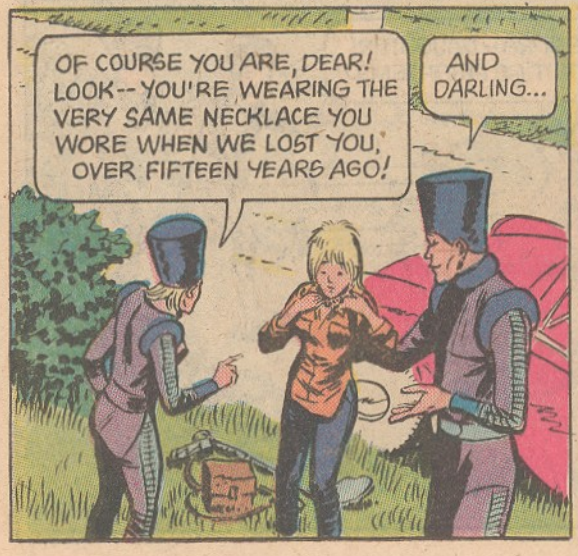
...SO I'LL SEE IF THIS GEIGER COUNTER CAN PICK UP-- WHA--
ZENDRA!

TH-THOSE PEOPLE... CALLING ME ZENDRA! THEY'RE DRESSED IN SUCH STRANGE GARB!
ZENDRA--DAUGHTER! DON'T BE FRIGHTENED!

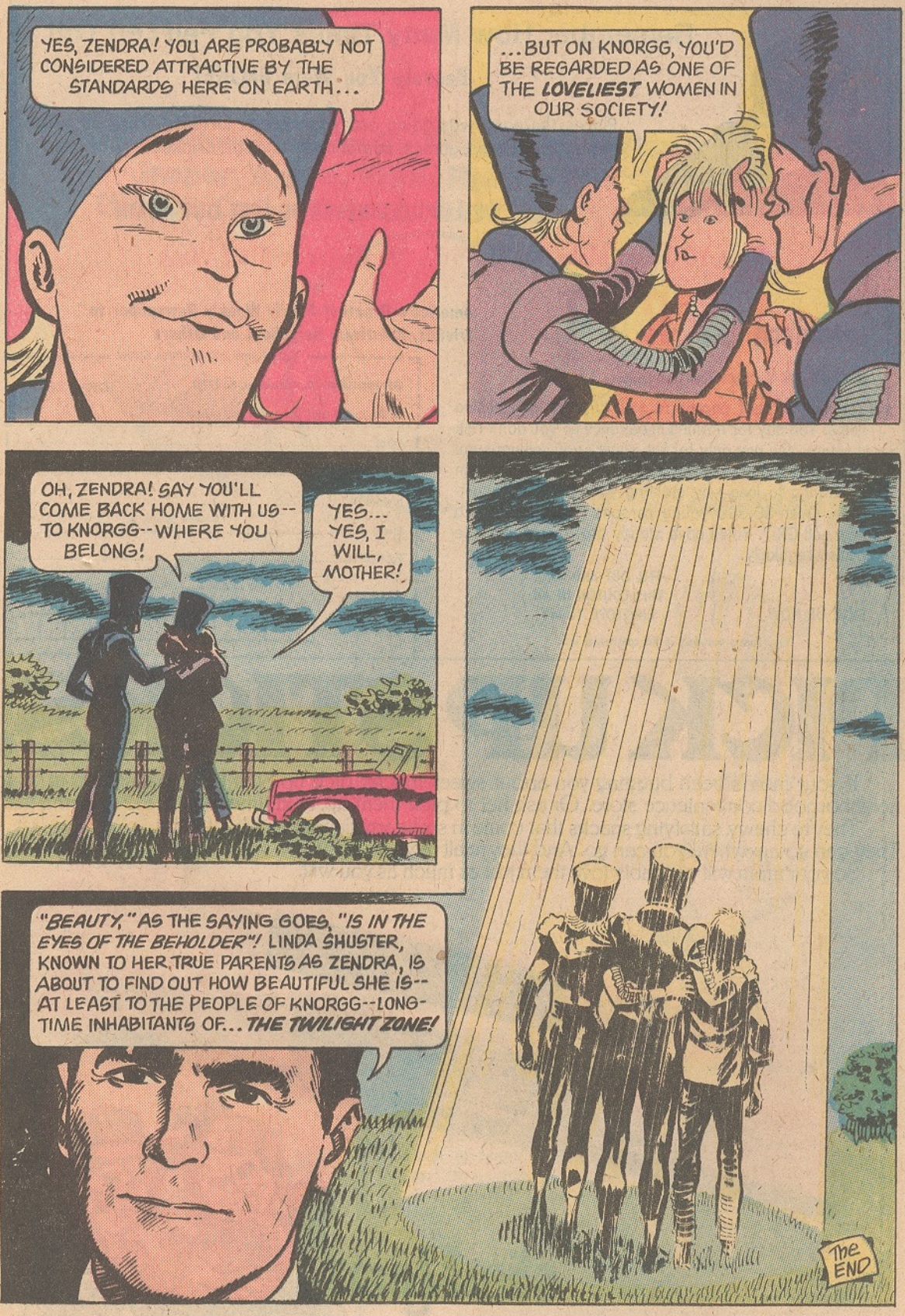
D-DAUGHTER?
YES! YOU HAVE NO WAY OF REMEMBERING, BUT A FEW YEARS AFTER YOU WERE BORN, WE TOOK YOU ON AN EXPEDITION WITH US TO THIS PLANET, AND YOU WANDERED OFF!
WE TRIED DESPERATELY TO FIND YOU...


...BUT WHEN THE TELE-PORT RAY APPEARED TO TRANSMIT US BACK TO KNORGG, YOU WERE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND!
TELE-PORT RAY! THAT'S EXACTLY THE MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION PROFESSOR LANCEY DESCRIBES IN HIS ARTICLE!


YOUR MOTHER AND I WERE BROKEN-HEARTED, BUT WE WERE FORCED TO LEAVE WITHOUT YOU!
BUT ARE YOU SURE I'M YOUR DAUGHTER?


OF COURSE YOU ARE, DEAR! LOOK--YOU'RE WEARING THE VERY SAME NECKLACE YOU WORE WHEN WE LOST YOU, OVER FIFTEEN YEARS AGO!
AND DARLING...

...YOU'VE GROWN TO BE EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN WE COULD EVER HAVE EXPECTED!
BEAUTIFUL?


YES, ZENDRA! YOU ARE PROBABLY NOT CONSIDERED ATTRACTIVE BY THE STANDARDS HERE ON EARTH...
...BUT ON KNORGG, YOU'D BE REGARDED AS ONE OF THE LOVELIEST WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY!
OH, ZENDRA! SAY YOU'LL COME BACK HOME WITH US--TO KNORGG--WHERE YOU BELONG!
YES... YES, I WILL, MOTHER!
"BEAUTY," AS THE SAYING GOES, "IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER"! LINDA SHUSTER, KNOWN TO HER TRUE PARENTS AS ZENDRA, IS ABOUT TO FIND OUT HOW BEAUTIFUL SHE IS--AT LEAST TO THE PEOPLE OF KNORGG--LONG-TIME INHABITANTS OF... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!
THE END

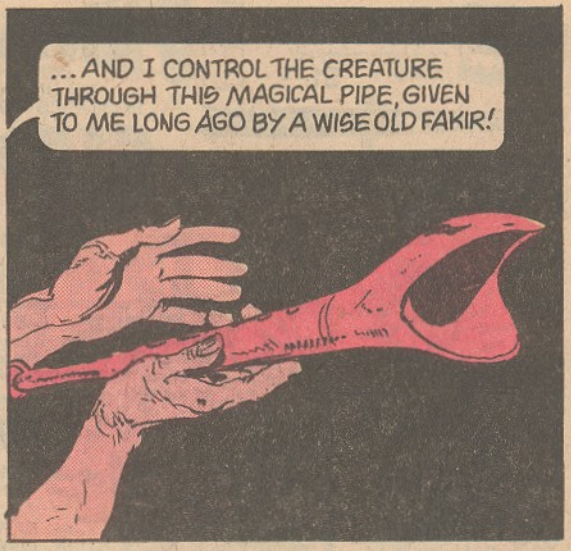
THE TWILIGHT ZONE
Overly Charming
NOT EVEN THE WISEST FAKIRS OF INDIA KNOW WHEN OR WHERE THE ANCIENT ART OF SNAKE CHARMING ORIGINATED! FOR ITS SECRETS, AS YOU ARE ABOUT TO DISCOVER, ARE LOCKED IN... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!
DEAR ME... ANOTHER SNAKE CHARMER!
THE RUDDY LAND'S CRAWLING WITH THEM!
WHAT'S MORE, THIS ONE IS STRICTLY SECOND-RATE!
QUITE SO, DARLING... NOT WORTH A FARTHING!
HA HA! YOU HEARD WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT YOU, LAL?
THEY WERE RIGHT, TOO!
A FAKIR YOU CALL YOURSELF? FAKER IS A BETTER WORD! HA HA!

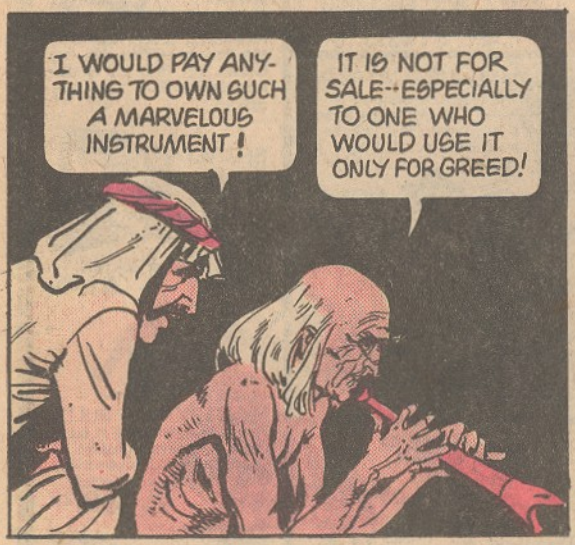
HA HA!
HO HO HO HO!
HEE HEE HEE!
IGNORANT FOOLS!... ENJOY YOURSELVES WHILE YOU CAN... FOR IT IS I WHO SHALL ONE DAY LAUGH THE LOUDEST!

BUT AS THE BITTER LAL WANDERS AIMLESSLY...
THEY WERE RIGHT! I AM NO DIFFERENT FROM THOUSANDS OF OTHERS WHO PLY MY TRADE!
ONLY A FEW BECOME GREAT, FAMOUS! WHAT IS THEIR SECRET?

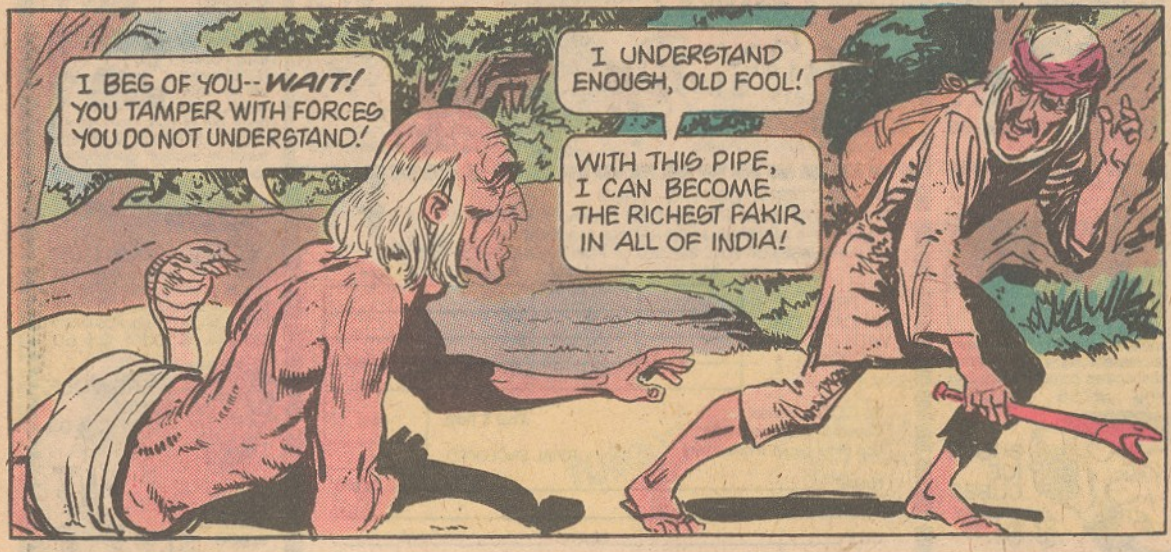
WHAT WEIRD MUSIC! WHO COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH STRANGE, UNEARTHLY PIPING?

WHO ARE YOU, OLD MAN?... FROM WHENCE COMES YOUR MIGHTY POWER OVER SNAKES?
I AM CALLED ZAKAR...

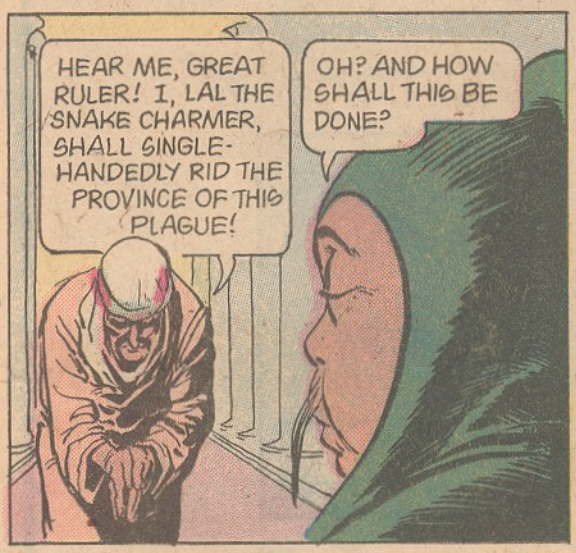

...AND I CONTROL THE CREATURE THROUGH THIS MAGICAL PIPE, GIVEN TO ME LONG AGO BY A WISE OLD FAKIR!


I WOULD PAY ANY-THING TO OWN SUCH A MARVELOUS INSTRUMENT!
IT IS NOT FOR SALE--ESPECIALLY TO ONE WHO WOULD USE IT ONLY FOR GREED!

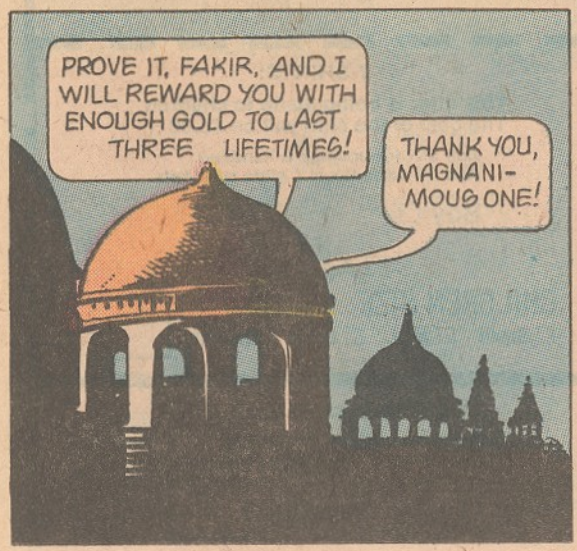
THEN I SHALL SIMPLY HAVE TO TAKE IT!
THWACK!

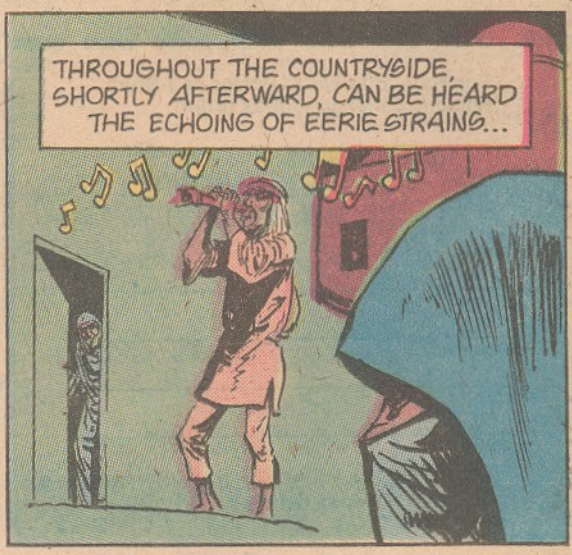

I BEG OF YOU--WAIT! YOU TAMPER WITH FORCES YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND!
I UNDERSTAND ENOUGH, OLD FOOL!
WITH THIS PIPE, I CAN BECOME THE RICHEST FAKIR IN ALL OF INDIA!

SOME DAYS LATER, IN THE ROYAL PALACE OF A NEIGHBORING PROVINCE...
I AM TOLD, RAJAH RAVI, THAT YOUR LAND IS BESET BY A PLAGUE OF SNAKES!
THAT IS SO! THE SLIMY VIPERS MULTIPLY FASTER THAN WE CAN DESTROY THEM!

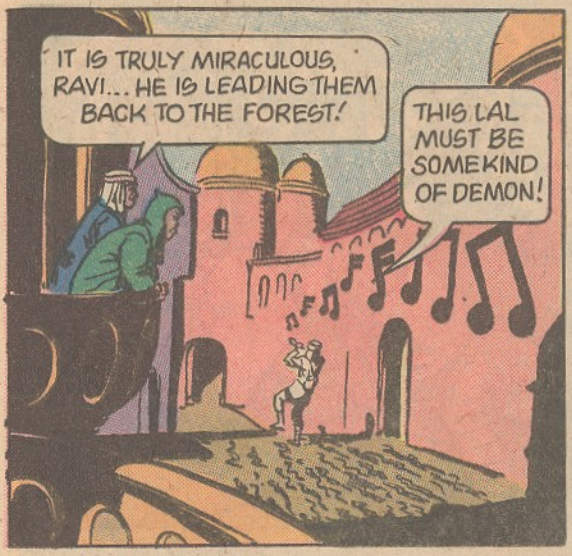

HEAR ME, GREAT RULER! I, LAL THE SNAKE CHARMER, SHALL SINGLE-HANDEDLY RID THE PROVINCE OF THIS PLAGUE!
OH? AND HOW SHALL THIS BE DONE?

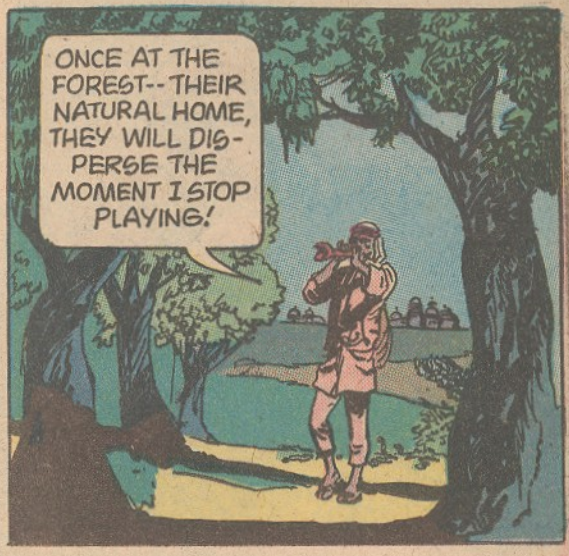
WITH MY MUSICAL PIPE, WHOSE MYSTIC, MAGIC STRAINS NO SNAKE CAN RESIST!


PROVE IT, FAKIR, AND I WILL REWARD YOU WITH ENOUGH GOLD TO LAST THREE LIFETIMES!
THANK YOU, MAGNANI-MOUS ONE!


THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRYSIDE, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, CAN BE HEARD THE ECHOING OF EERIE STRAINS...

LIKE A MAGNET, THE HYPNOTIC VIBRATIONS FERRET OUT EVERY SLITHERING CREATURE IN THE PROVINCE...
...AND DRAWS THEM LIKE OBEDIENT SLAVES, TO THE HEELS OF THEIR "MASTER"...


IT IS TRULY MIRACULOUS, RAVI... HE IS LEADING THEM BACK TO THE FOREST!
THIS LAL MUST BE SOMEKIND OF DEMON!


ONCE AT THE FOREST--THEIR NATURAL HOME, THEY WILL DISPERSE THE MOMENT I STOP PLAYING!

HA HA! FAREWELL, UGLY BEINGS! I THANK YOU FOR MAKING LAL WEALTHY--AND FAMOUS!

HISS..SS!
WHAT--?

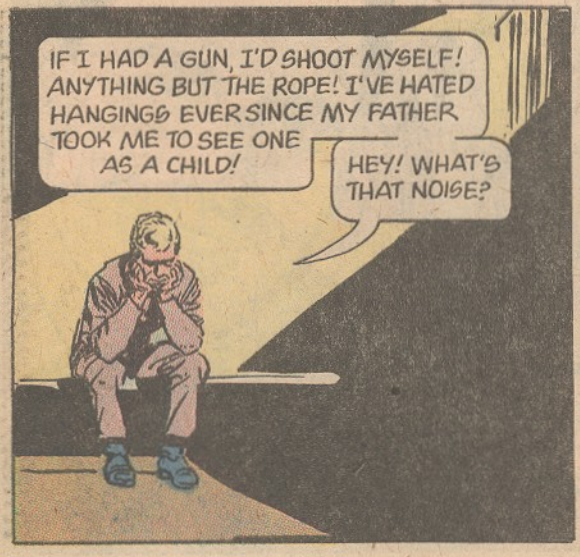
YIIII!

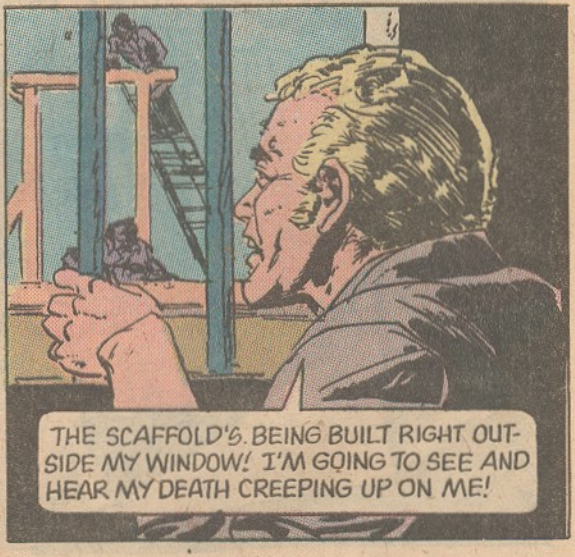
TH-THEY'RE ANGRY! THEY'LL KILL ME UNLESS-- UNLESS--
THANK GOOD-NESS, THE MUSIC HAS CALMED THEM!
BUT-- WHAT AM I TO DO? SOONER OR LATER, I WILL COLLAPSE FROM WEARINESS -- AND THE SNAKES WILL ATTACK AGAIN!
IT IS I WHO AM AT THEIR MERCY NOW!
I'M AFRAID THE ONLY PLACE WHERE LAL CAN GET RID OF THOSE SNAKES IS IN... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!

THE TWILIGHT ZONE
The HANGMAN'S NOOSE
ARE YOU, BOWIE RAMSTON, READY FOR THE VERDICT?
BOWIE RAMSTON IS BEING TRIED FOR MURDER! AND IF CONVICTED, HE WILL HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME, FOR SENTENCES AREN'T LIGHT IN... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!
DON'T WORRY, BOWIE! AFTER ALL, YOU KILLED IN SELF-DEFENSE!
I HOPE THE JUDGE THINKS SO!
LATER...
YOU ARE FOUND GUILTY IN THE FIRST DEGREE! THE SENTENCE IS DEATH BY HANGING TO BE CARRIED OUT TWO WEEKS TO THE DAY!

NO! THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE! I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM!
THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL SAY! BUT THE ROPE WILL SHUT YOU UP FAST ENOUGH!

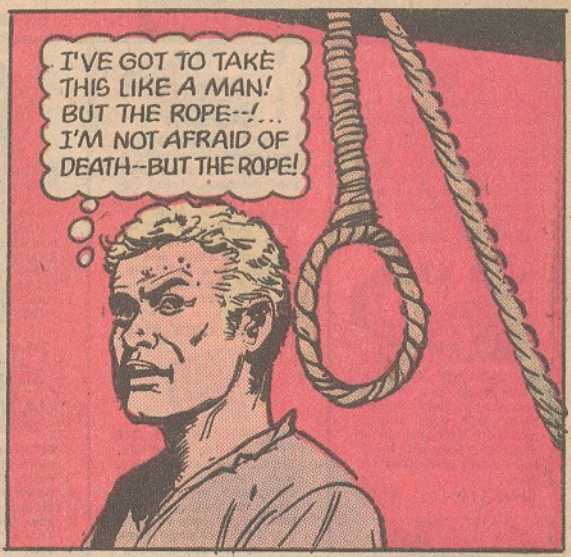
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU HANG, KID!


IF I HAD A GUN, I'D SHOOT MYSELF! ANYTHING BUT THE ROPE! I'VE HATED HANGINGS EVER SINCE MY FATHER TOOK ME TO SEE ONE AS A CHILD!
HEY! WHAT'S THAT NOISE?


THE SCAFFOLD'S BEING BUILT RIGHT OUTSIDE MY WINDOW! I'M GOING TO SEE AND HEAR MY DEATH CREEPING UP ON ME!

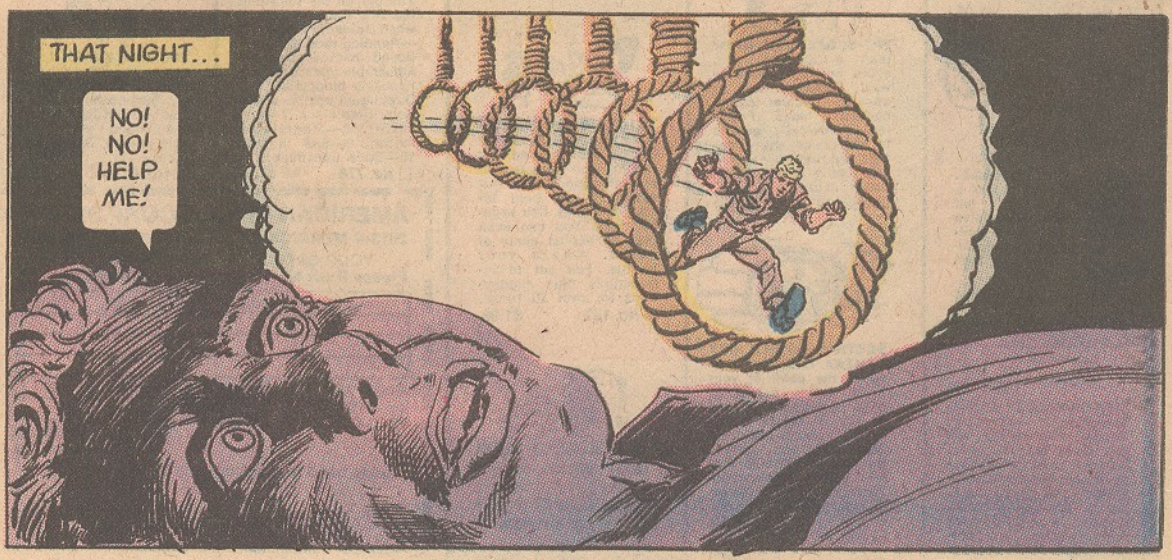
THIS IS THE ROPE THEY'RE GOING TO USE! CAN'T YOU JUST FEEL IT AROUND YOUR NECK?
NO! NO! TAKE IT AWAY! TAKE IT AWAY!

THE DAY OF THE HANGING...
THESE HAVE BEEN THE LONGEST TWO WEEKS OF MY LIFE... EVERY SECOND, TORTURE!
HANG IN THERE, KID!
HANG IN THERE? IS HE KIDDING? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'LL BE DOING!


I'VE GOT TO TAKE THIS LIKE A MAN! BUT THE ROPE--!... I'M NOT AFRAID OF DEATH--BUT THE ROPE!

WHAT THE-- NOTHING HAPPENED! TRAP DOOR DIDN'T WORK!
WHY DIDN'T IT WORK? NOW I'LL HAVE TO WAIT ALL OVER AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY, KID! IT'LL BE FIXED BY TOMORROW MORNING! THIS IS A GOOD TOWN! WE WON'T CHEAT YOU OF YOUR HANGING!
I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE! NOT ANOTHER NIGHT!


THAT NIGHT...
NO! NO! HELP ME!

I'VE SLEPT... A LOT, TOO! WHY HAVEN'T THEY COME FOR ME? IT'S SURELY PAST MORNING!
DEPUTY, WHERE ARE YOU? WHY HAVEN'T THEY COME FOR ME? I WANT IT OVER ALREADY!
THE HANGMAN'S TAKEN ILL! THE HANGING HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY! I CAN SEE YOU LIKE WAITING... SO ENJOY YOURSELF!
:SOB: TOO MUCH PAIN! I JUST CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!
HOWDY, MARSHAL! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
WANT
HAVE YOU HANGED THAT RAMSTON KID YET?

NO! WE HAD A STRING OF BAD LUCK!
BAD LUCK FOR YOU, BUT GOOD LUCK FOR RAMSTON! THE TERRITORIAL GOVERNOR REVIEWED HIS CASE AND COMMUTED HIS SENTENCE! HE'S NOT TO BE HANGED!
CAN'T WAIT TO TELL THE KID! GETTING A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE AND ALL!
YEAH, AND I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL THE DAY THESE TWO-BIT TRIALS ARE OVER!
LOOK AT HIM! HE SEEMS ALMOST DEAD!
LET ME HAVE A LOOK AT HIM!
HE'S DEAD! AND LOOK AT THESE ROPE BURNS AROUND HIS NECK! IT'S LIKE HE'S BEEN HANGED! BUT THERE'S NO WAY IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT!
BOWIE RAMSTON WAS SO AFRAID OF BEING HANGED THAT HE COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! HIS MIND HANGED HIM TO PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY AND INTO THE REALM OF... THE TWILIGHT ZONE!